Grimsby Port Sanitary Authority

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for 1896.

Copy

Town Hall.
26th March 1897.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

During the year ended 31st December 1896 2,360 Ships were inspected at this Port, viz;-

British		Foreign.	
Coasting Steamers	233	Foreign Steamers	1111
Sailing Ships	178	Sailing Ships	257
Fishing Vessels	569	Fishing Vessels	12
Totals	980		1380=2360

57 Cabins, deckhouses, or forecastles found in a dirty state, were thoroughly cleansed, and painted, or limewashed according to notices served. 2 deck-houses, and 2 Water closets ventilated. 2 choked Closets, 1 foul peart, 1 forehold and 1 steerage foul, 3 decks leaking over the mens berths. These defects were pointed out to the responsible persons and remedied at once.

16 Ships had drinking water tanks emptied and cleansed.

Cases of Sickness.

Jan 7th Smack Saltaire.

Captain brought in dead inquest (verdict) bursting of a blood vessel in the lungs.

Feb 7th Smack "Hearty Welcome"

One of the Crew suffering from Typhoid Fever and Pneumonia, removed to the Corporation Hospital.

Feb 15th Smack "Ben Ocarg"

One of the Crew brought in dead, inquest (verdict) heart disease.

Feb 22nd Smack Beta.

One of the crew brought in dead, (inquest) verdict accidentally killed by being struck on region of the heart with dandy winch whilst revolving round at sea.

Feb 23rd Smack Four Sisters.

One of the Crew suffering from Rheumatism, was removed to the District Hospital.

March 28th Smack Silver Spray.

Captain suffering from Obstruction of the bowels, taken home.

Apl 20th Steam Trawler Derwent.

Captain brought in dead, (inquest) verdict heart disease.

June 5th S.S. Cameo from Gothenburg.

Emigrant male child suffering from Measles, removed to Corporation Isolation Hospital.

July 8th Russian Steamer Nicolai.

One of the Crew suffering from a severe cold, remained on board.

July 15th S.S. Fjaner, Norwegian Steamer from Calais.

Four of the crew suffering from Influenza viz the Cook, fireman and 2 A.B's removed to the Corporation Hospital.

July 23rd S.S. Spumfel, from Ulcaborg.

Male Child 3 years of age suffering from Typhoid Fever, isolated in shore.

Oct. 12th Smack Peregal.

Second hand brought in dead (inquest) verdict heart disease.

Nov. 29th Norwegian Steamer Union from Riga.

Cook suffering from Typhoid Fever and Pneumonia, removed to general District Hospital and died.

In all cases where infectious diseases occurred the ships were thoroughly fumigated, and bedding and clothes disinfected.

The Water Boats, five in number have been systematically inspected and found clean and in good order.

Canal Boats.

315 Canal Boats were inspected, and were occupied by 701 Adults, 594 Males, and 107 Females, and 117 Children, 63 Males, and 54 Females.

11 cases of infringements of the Canal Boats Acts were met with, and in each case the defects were at once remedied.

Emigrants.

29,306 emigrants and passengers passed through the Port during 12 months, an increase of 1,246 on the preceding year. The emigrant carrying boats were inspected upon arrival and found in a Sanitary condition. Frequent visits were made to the emigrants home which was always found clean, and the general management satisfactory.

Workshops &c.

110 visits were made to workshops, and in most instances these were found in good order, 8 were limewashed out, 2 ventilated, and 2 provided with sanitary conveniences;- The fish curing premises have been systematically visited and printed notices served upon all occupiers concerning the dirty condition of the barrels brought on to the fish market;- these have produced a marked improvement.

Drainage &c.

2 drains were opened and cleaned out, 4 drains trapped, 2 gullies fixed, 10 rainfall pipes repaired, 1 cesspit and 1 vault abolished, 1 urinal cleansed and painted, 1 urinal removed, 1 new pan & Water Closet, 3 dirty privies cleaned out, in 4 instances defective paving has been made good, 4 dirty stores and cellars cleaned out, the paving has been completed at the Railway siding of the fish dock extension, The W. C.s on the docks are kept clean and in good order, and in the summer months flushed out twice daily, and men regularly employed to pick up any floating debris in the docks.

Food Supply.

The following fish was cleaned and

destroyed, viz:- 4500 herrings, 434 mackerel, 9 hake, 45 codfishes, 5 ling, 9 plaice, 105 packages of smelts, 83 packages of shrimps, 68 stones of haddocks, 13 stones of halibut, 68 stones of furnets, 7 stones of dabs, 7 stones of tusks, and 10 tons, 6 cwt of plaice.

Urinal and closet accomodation on the fish docks is utterly inadequate:- There are no free closets on these docks, and on the East side there is no urinal or closet accomodation of any kind.

Floating Hospital.

Nothing has yet been done in this direction, we have no floating defence against the importation of Seaborne infectious disease. A seriously unsafe position, which should at once receive your attention.

I am, Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant
T. Kerby M. D.
Medical Officer of Health.